

CLAIMS

5 WE CLAIM:

10 1) A system for conducting business electronically between a plurality of computers corresponding to a plurality of users through an interconnected network of computers, said system being adapted to send data to and receive data from said plurality of computers, said system comprising:

15 a) a server computer connected to said interconnected network of computers, said server computer comprising a data exchange means, wherein said data exchange means provides:

- 20 i) a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users;
- ii) a means for mapping data transactions;
- 25 iii) a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats;
- iv) a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data transactions; and
- v) an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being responsive to said data transaction repository and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with said business rules.

30 2) A system as claimed in claim 1, said system further comprising a database for storing data generated by said data exchange means.

- 3) A system for conducting business electronically as claimed in claim 2, wherein said data exchange means comprises an application repository of integrated utilities said integrated utilities providing a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules
5 corresponding to each of said plurality of users; a means for mapping data transactions; a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats; a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data transactions; and an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said
10 electronic commerce means being responsive to said data transaction repository and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with said business rules.
- 4) A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said data exchange means is
15 provided in accordance with an open standards architecture that permits deployment of additional utilities to said application repository.
- 5) A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said server computer is responsive to data received from said plurality of computers regardless of the electronic format of such data; and wherein said server computer
20 sends data to said plurality of computers in an electronic format understood by each of said plurality of computers.
- 6) A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said server computer further
25 comprises a display means for displaying data generated by said data exchange means to each of said plurality of users in accordance with the business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users.
- 7) A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said display means permits each
30 of said plurality of users to access and process data generated by said data exchange means in accordance with the business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users.

8) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said data exchange means further comprises a means for receiving and processing instructions defining an electronic workflow in said data exchange means, said electronic workflow corresponding to the electronic business cycle of each of said plurality of users.

9) A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said data exchange means further comprises:

- a) a security means for providing data security;
- b) a data exchange administration means for automated administration of security, user profiles and preferences;
- c) an extraction means for extracting data generated by said data exchange means from said database;
- d) a reporting means for providing said plurality of users with reports based on said data generated by said data exchange means; and
- e) a data archive means for extracting archive data from said database related to data transactions processed by said data exchange means.

10) A computer product for installation on a server computer for conducting business electronically between a plurality of computers corresponding to a plurality of users through an interconnected network of computers, said system being adapted to send data to and receive data from said plurality of computers, said computer product comprising:

- a) a server computer product adapted to facilitate communication between said server computer and an interconnected network of computers, said server computer product comprising a data exchange means, wherein said data exchange means cooperates with a database to provide:

- i) a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users;
- ii) a means for mapping data transactions;
- iii) a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats;
- iv) a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data transactions; and
- v) an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being responsive to said data transaction repository and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with said business rules; and

b) a facility for storing data generated by said data exchange means to said database.

11) A computer product as claimed in claim 2, wherein said data exchange means comprises an application repository of integrated utilities said integrated utilities providing a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users; a means for mapping data transactions; a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats; a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data transactions; and an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being responsive to said data transaction repository and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with said business rules.

12) A computer product as claimed in claim 11, wherein said data exchange means is provided in accordance with an open standards architecture that permits deployment of additional utilities to said application repository.

13)A computer product as claimed in claim 12, wherein said computer product is responsive to data received from said plurality of users regardless of the electronic format of such data.

5 14)A computer product as claimed in claim 13, wherein said computer product further comprises a display means for displaying data generated by said data exchange means to each of said plurality of users in accordance with the business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users.

10 15)A computer product as claimed in claim 14, wherein said display means permits each of said plurality of users to access and process data generated by said data exchange means in accordance with the business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users.

15 16)A computer product as claimed in claim 7, wherein said data exchange means further comprises a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to workflow in said data exchange means, said workflow corresponding to the electronic business cycle of each of said plurality of users.

20 17)A computer product as claimed in claim 16, wherein said data exchange means further comprises:

- a) a security means for providing data security;
- 25 b) a data exchange administration means for automated administration of security, user profiles and preferences;
- c) an extraction means for extracting data generated by said data exchange means from said database;
- d) a reporting means for providing said plurality of users with reports based on said data generated by said data exchange means; and
- 30 e) a data archive means for extracting archive data from said database related to data transactions processed by said data exchange means.

18)A system for conducting business electronically between a plurality of
5 computers corresponding to a plurality of users through an interconnected
network of computers, said system being adapted to send data to and
receive data from said plurality of computers, said system comprising:

10 a) a server computer connected to said interconnected network of
computers, said server computer comprising a data exchange means,
wherein said data exchange means provides:

- 15 i) a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to
business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users;
- ii) a means for mapping data transactions;
- iii) a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of
electronic formats;
- iv) a data transaction repository for receiving and processing
instructions for deployment of data transactions; and
- 20 v) an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions,
said electronic commerce means being responsive to said data
transaction repository and the business rules so as to process data
transactions in accordance with said business rules

25 wherein said data exchange means and database are integrated so that
data flows freely between said data exchange means and database.

19)A method of implementing an electronic community adapted to permit a
plurality of users to exchange business electronically, said method
comprising the steps of:

- 30 a) determining the business rules of said plurality of users;

- b) customizing a data exchange means in accordance with said business rules, said data exchange means comprising:
- i) a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users;
 - ii) a means for mapping data transactions;
 - iii) a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats;
 - iv) a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data transactions; and
 - v) an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being responsive to said data transaction repository and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with said business rules.
- c) providing access to the data exchange means to said plurality of users through an interconnected network of computers.

20) A method of implementing an electronic community adapted to permit a plurality of users to exchange business electronically, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) determining the business rules of said plurality of users;
- b) customizing a data exchange means in accordance with said business rules, said data exchange means comprising:
 - i) a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users;
 - ii) a means for mapping data transactions;
 - iii) a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats;
 - iv) a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data transactions; and
 - v) an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being responsive to said data

transaction repository and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with said business rules.

c) providing access to the data exchange means to said plurality of users through an interconnected network of computers; and

5 d) customization of the data exchange means so as to permit each of said plurality of users to access data generated by said data exchange means in accordance with user requirements by means of a custom interface.

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